

14 Years Ago at JSC

Alicia damages some buildings

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From the beginning, the center was designed to withstand a direct hit by a hurricane, and Alicia provided the first test of that design since construction began some 20 years ago.

No major structural damage was inflicted on any building on site, but six buildings—9, 9A, 31, 36, 44 and 49—did have roof damage and some water inside. The center lost around 150 trees, a number of light poles and signs and all told the damage cost is expected to exceed \$250,000.

“In general, we came through rather fortunately,” said Center Operations Director Kenneth Gilbreath. “No one was hurt, there was no critical equipment damage and we do not foresee any mission impact.”

“I thought the buildings weathered the storm very well,” said Associate Director Henry Clements. “We are very fortunate and Center Ops had a very good preparation plan in place which served us well.”

In the aftermath of the storm, ground crews did yeomen service repairing and cleaning up the dam-

age. “I’ve lived in Texas all my life and have been through several storms,” said Duane Marburger, project manager for Chemical and Vegetation Control, “and so I expected it to be bad out here. But when I came out here Thursday afternoon, I was shocked. It looked like we’d never get done.”

Crews had to cut up and haul off some 150 trees, but Marburger said they are in the process of saving another 300. “It will take the better part of the year to get the site back in shape,” he said. “But as far as the initial cleanup goes, we’ve accomplished in about a week what I thought would take a month to do,”

Especially hard hit was the Gilruth Recreation Center area and the area near the astronaut jogging track. The Rec Center was scheduled to resume softball games on fields one, three and four this week, but play on field two will not be possible for some time, according to Exchange Operations Manager Wally Grimes. Since several light poles were either destroyed or damaged, there will be no night games for from three to six weeks, he said. The fence around the tennis courts was completely flattened and some roof damage was done to the main Rec Center building

and the picnic pavilion. Total damage at the Rec Center grounds is estimated around \$30,000. The astronaut jogging track is covered with several trees and will be closed indefinitely, Marburger said.

During the storm, a Hurricane Rideout team kept tabs on the center from a command post on the second floor of Bldg. 30, which is sometimes cited as one of the safest buildings in Harris County in terms of strength and ability to withstand severe weather. The center was officially in Level II emergency preparations when the site was closed at noon Wednesday.

JSC goes to Level II preparations when an emergency situation is imminent. A command post is activated and general preparations are begun. During Level III, the condition the center was in when Alicia hit, final preparations are on station and all the hatches generally are battened down for the big blow.

During the first hours of the storm JSC became a haven for about 100 refugees from high water and wind and water damage. Most all of the people who came to JSC for shelter were housed in the auditorium of Bldg. 30 except for a few with animals who slept in Bldg. 420.



JSC Photo 83-38627

Cleanup was underway last week in the Mission Evaluation Room in Bldg. 45 in the aftermath of Hurricane Alicia. A window blew out in the MER and some water and wind damage was sustained. The station closes to the damaged window was that for “Water and Waste Management.”

Gilruth Center News

Hours: The Gilruth Center will now remain open until 2 p.m. Saturday and close at 9 p.m. Friday.

Sign up policy: All classes and athletic activities are first come, first served. Sign up in person at the Gilruth Center and show a yellow Gilruth badge or weight room. Classes tend to fill up two weeks in advance. Payment must be made in full, in exact change or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone. For more information, call x30304.

Gilruth badges: Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

Basketball, Volleyball: Registration is currently under way for fall leagues. Basketball costs \$315 per team and deadline for registration is Sept. 10. Volleyball costs \$175 per team and deadline for registration is Sept. 9. Call the Gilruth for more information.

NASA Fitness Challenge: Runs through Aug. 31. Call x30301 for more information.

Hatha Yoga: A stress relieving, stretching and breathing exercise routine to unite body, mind and spirit. Classes meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays. Cost is \$40 for eight weeks.

Nutrition intervention program: A six-week program to learn more about the role diet and nutrition play in health, including lectures, private consultations with a dietitian and blood analysis. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For more information call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

Defensive driving: One-day course is offered once a month. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25. Call for next available class.

Stamp club: Meets at 7 p.m. every second and fourth Monday in Rm. 216.

Weight safety: Required course for employees wishing to use the weight room will be offered from 8-9:30 p.m. Next class is Sept. 11. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. Additional family members are \$50.

Exercise: Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.

Aikido: Introductory martial arts class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Cost is \$35 per month. New classes begin the first of each month.

Aerobics: Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks.

Ballroom dancing: Beginner classes meet from 7-8:15 p.m. Thursdays. Intermediate and advanced classes meet from 8:15-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$60 per couple.

Country and western dancing: Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.

Fitness program: Health Related Fitness Program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For more information call Larry Wier at x30301.

Gilruth Home Page: Check out all activities at the Gilruth online at: <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm>

Ticket Window

The following discount tickets are available for purchase in the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and in the Bldg. 3 Exchange Store from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday - Friday. For more information call x35350 or x30990.

Baseball: Houston Astros vs. Los Angeles Dodgers 7 p.m. Sept. 13. Tickets cost \$18.50.

EAA Texaribbean Cruise: Nov. 22-30. \$200 deposit per person, final payment by Sept. 15

Astroworld: \$22.75. Season pass \$56.75. Two-day \$37.50

Waterworld: \$11.50.

Astroworld: \$19 Blue Light Special, valid for 1997 season only.

Moody Gardens: Tickets are \$9.50 for 2 of 4 events.

Space Center Houston: Adult \$8.95; children (4-11) \$6.40 JSC civil service employees free.

Seaworld: Adult \$27.25; children (3-11) \$18.25.

Schlitterbahn: Adult \$20.25; children (3-11) \$17.50.

Splashtown: Adult \$14.50; children (3-9) \$11.50.

Movie discounts: General Cinema, \$5.25; AMC Theater, \$4.50; Sony Loew's Theater, \$4.75.

Shirts: JSC logo T-shirt, \$10, Polo style, \$23. Mars T-shirts starting at \$14..

Stamps: Book of 20, \$6.40.

Metro: Tickets available.

Oral history project seeks interviews from employees

JSC is conducting an Oral History Project in order to preserve and further document the history of space flight.

The Oral History Project will preserve existing interviews of the key participants of the space program that have been recorded on outdated media, and will continue to document additional interviews using state-of-the-art audio and video techniques. The project also will make a permanent record of the history of space flight widely accessible to NASA employees, other government agencies and the public.

Currently, NASA maintains audio tapes of interviews of the key figures in human space flight history. These reel-to-reel and cassette tapes have been scattered among various NASA centers, the National Archives and the National Air and Space Museum and are difficult to retrieve. The outdated media also are in extreme danger of decay. One of the primary objectives of the Oral History Project is to preserve the tapes that are at risk of deterioration. The tapes will be preserved in a digital format that will permit effortless copying and transferring of data without degradation and that can be archived easily.

Oral History Project team members are actively seeking tapes of interviews that may be located elsewhere to include in the archives. Employees who may possess original interviews of individuals who work or have worked in human exploration and develop-

ment of space, may send an e-mail to “signalho@swbell.net”, so that the part of history which employees possess may be made part of the permanent files. If Oral History Project team members include an individual's interview in the archives, the provider will receive a restored copy of the interview.

In addition to the preservation of existing tapes, the Oral History Project team members conduct interviews of people who were fundamental to the development of the space project including astronauts, managers and working-level employees. These interviews will be conducted using digital audio and video formats and will then be transcribed into computer databases for subsequent search, retrieval and application. Once all of the tapes have been archived, Oral History Project team members will work in conjunction with JSC's Library to make the archives easily accessible by using new technology and will make the information available on the World Wide Web.

“We are truly excited to preserve the history of NASA and document the lessons we’ve learned along the way,” said Rich Dinkel, deputy director of Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance, who will oversee the Oral History Project. “It is crucial to make our accomplishments and the information we have learned from the past available to everyone, so that the American public can be as proud of NASA's history as we are.”

Roundup Deadlines

The Space News Roundup is published every other Friday. Story ideas should be submitted as far in advance as possible, but no later than two weeks prior to the date of publication.

The deadline for Dates & Data calendar items is three weeks prior to the date of publication.

Stories and ideas should be submitted to Managing Editor Karen Schmidt in Bldg. 2, Rm. 181, or via e-mail to:

karen.r.schmidt1@jsc.nasa.gov